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This book is a welcome addition to the literature of our early economic history, a subject which deserves much more attention than has yet been paid to it. So far as the actual legislation relating to trade and commerce is concerned, the subject is covered with a reasonable degree of thoroughness. The author attempts, in several cases, to estimate the effects of such legislation, but this feature of the book is not very satisfactory. Indeed, a thorough treatment of this phase of the subject is, perhaps, more needed than almost any other topic in our economic history. It would call for a wide investigation of other classes of sources than the laws, both in this country and abroad. Until this is done the subject of commercial legislation in its entirety is still untreated. The book is concisely and clearly written, is provided with adequate footnotes, and has an excellent bibliography and index.

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*The Jukes.* A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease, and Heredity. By ROBERT L. DUGDALE. Fourth edition, with a Foreword by ELISHA HARRIS, M.D. . . . and an Introduction by FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS. New York: Putnam, 1910. 8vo, pp. v+120.

Once more this little classic has been reissued and put within general reach. It had long been out of print—so long, in fact, that the publishers lost count, and have given us the fourth edition fifteen years after the fifth edition of 1895. Apart from this absurdity, which is likely to perplex the bibliographers, there is nothing in the book to call for review on the ground of novelty. We find it merely a fresh printing from the old, uncorrected plates. The one new feature—the introduction by Professor Giddings—is so compact and so just an estimate of the work as to make further comment seem even less necessary than it might otherwise have been. And yet, after all, a book which has been only with difficulty accessible to two or three university generations of students comes to them almost as a new book. For this reason it is noticed here—and for the stronger reason that one is moved to appraise the qualities that have given it its enduring importance, despite the advances of more than thirty years in that branch of science in which its author was a pioneer.

Of the subject of the study it can hardly be necessary to say much by way of explanation. Mr. Dugdale undertook, in 1874, an investigation of county jails in the state of New York. In the course of his work he became interested in the case of a group of depraved criminals connected by close blood relationship; and as the result of devoted study and diligent accumulation of facts he extended his records of this family until it was found to comprise the twelve hundred felons and degenerates whom he has made notorious under the name of "Jukes." From this mass of material Dugdale attempted to disentangle the separate effects of heredity and corrupt associations as causes of crime.

In 1877, when *The Jukes* was published, the scientific study of heredity was barely begun. Galton, reckoned the first definitely to doubt the transmission of acquired characters, had but just declared his position two years before. The epoch-making studies of Weismann were still to be made known. Mendel's experiments, performed a decade previously, had been announced and ignored.

Even yet, all that has been achieved during the last generation in promoting the knowledge of biological principles of inheritance has left us, as regards human beings, deep in doubt how to distinguish results of the determining forces of example and tradition from the original qualities determined before birth. It is not surprising, then, that Dugdale should have made but stumbling progress in many of his deductions. What is surprising and admirable in his work is his own consciousness of the limitations of his method, and his rare merit of caution in drawing conclusions, combined with earnest zeal in bringing forward all the evidence he could accumulate. "Tentative Inductions" is regularly the phrase with which he heads his inferences. Many of these inductions—as, for example, those dealing with the sex-proportion of illegitimate and legitimate children—are contrary to the evidence of more comprehensive studies. The inadequacy which here may be supposed to result from the limited data at his disposal doubtless may invalidate in similar degree his other conclusions. Yet much of significance remains. We are today increasingly inclined to believe that pauperism is the slow product of exhaustion by inbreeding, debauchery, and disease. The hypothesis that crime mostly springs from unions between vitiated and vigorous stocks is an interesting guide to further investigation. "The tendency of inheritance is to produce an environment," in terms of parental example, which intensifies the effects of heredity, even though it may not "perpetuate" the inheritance itself. And though we question the views implied in Dugdale's conception of "heredity itself as an organized result of invariable environment," on account of his manifest belief in the strong hereditary effect of acquired modifications, we must agree with Professor Giddings' statement of the main conclusion to which the book leads: "If bad personal antecedents are reinforced by neglect, indecent domestic arrangements, isolation from the disturbing and stimulating influences of a vigorous civilization, and, above all, if evil example is forced upon the child from his earliest infancy, the product will inevitably be an extraordinary high percentage of pauperism, vice, and crime."

On account of its historical importance and its lasting merit we welcome the book again.

JAMES A. FIELD

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*A Report on the Taxation and Revenue System of Illinois.* Prepared for the Special Tax Commission of the State of Illinois. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE. Danville: Illinois Printing Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. xv+255.

In answer to a widespread demand for revision of the state-tax system the General Assembly of Illinois, in 1909, authorized the governor to appoint a special commission to investigate and report on the working of the revenue laws and to suggest changes in the method of taxation now employed. The report of this commission included, besides the formal findings and recommendations, additional information compiled by experts. The volume under consideration was prepared by Professor Fairlie in this connection.

The work is of the nature of a handbook, designed primarily for the use of the members of the general assembly, and must prove a valuable aid in reconstructing the state-tax system, should such a course be decided upon. As a natural consequence of the purpose of the work, the explanations are often very